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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1236
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3931
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 9651
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 4538
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RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 4278
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 2527
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0812
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001059

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DEPT FOR SCA, EAP/CM

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TAGS: PREL PGOV PTER CH NP

SUBJECT: PRC OFFICIALS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT MAOISTS

REF: BEIJING 7838

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty, Reasons, 1.4 (b/d).

Worried About Maoists

¶1. (C) In an April 26 meeting with the Ambassador, PRC MFA Asia Department Deputy Director General Luo Zhaohui, accompanied by Ambassador Sun Heping, said China was happy to hear the crisis had passed with the King's decision to restore Parliament and cede power to the Parties. Luo said that the Foreign Minister had dispatched him to Nepal on April 24 to review the situation and the possible evacuation of Chinese citizens. Luo and Ambassador Sun believed the political picture of Nepal remained unclear, however. They expressed continuing concern about the Maoists, who still had the military capability to threaten the state. Luo emphasized that "the Maoists are big trouble and no government has been able to solve the problem." He added that the Maoist insurgency was a major problem for India, as well as China. He questioned what the King's new role might be. Would the King be tempted to try to reassert himself, if the Maoists refused a peaceful resolution? Luo explained that China wanted peace, stability, and good cooperation with the constitutional forces in Nepal to protect PRC interests.

Ambassador: Need Unified Message

¶2. (C) The Ambassador welcomed China's statement of support for the transition in Nepal, and agreed that Nepal was at a crucial point. He stressed that the international community, including China, had to come up with not only verbal, but concrete, assistance for the new government. Luo indicated that China would review its assistance after the new government took office. The Ambassador suggested that China should stress to the new government the need for unity and a common purpose among the seven parties. He also recommended that China should caution the parties to stick to their bottom line that the Maoists had to lay down their arms and renounce violence before participating in any elections.

Concern About India's Role

¶3. (C) Luo repeatedly asked about India's role in Nepal. Could India affect events? The Ambassador said that India was the only outside actor who could influence the Maoists, although the Maoists were somewhat wary of alienating other members of the international community. He explained that New Delhi was pushing the Maoists to do the right thing. He added that the USG had high-level contacts with New Delhi on Nepal. The Ambassador also expressed appreciation for Beijing taking the initiative at a high level (refftel) to consult with the U.S. Luo agreed that it was important that we continue to work closely together on Nepal, as there still could be trouble.

Comment

¶4. (C) China is concerned about Nepal's transition, worrying that the Maoists have no desire to enter a political process where they are not the dominant power. The Chinese interest in Indian activities might reflect a distrust of India resulting in a desire to make sure India is doing the right thing in Nepal.

MORIARTY